



ELECTION INTEGRITY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR REPUBLIC

Confidence that the outcome of our elections reflects the will of the people is paramount to the success of our republic. Unfortunately, the current political climate has prevented states and the federal government from adopting commonsense policies to safeguard our elections against fraud and ensure that each citizen is entitled to one vote counted appropriately and expediently.

BACKGROUND

- *Voter ID*
 - Requiring voters to present identification to cast a ballot is a simple way to validate that voters vote for themselves and only cast their vote once.
 - Federal law bans non-citizens from voting in federal elections. Still, several localities, such as Washington D.C.,¹ San Francisco,² and Montpelier, VT,³ allow them to vote in certain local elections. Voter ID prevents non-citizens from casting a ballot in federal elections, which alleviates foreign influence and ensures that only citizens of the United States get to select its leaders.
 - As of 2023, 35 states require some identification at the polls.⁴
 - The remaining 15 states (plus Washington, DC) do not require any documentation to vote. These states include liberal bastions like California, New York, and Massachusetts.⁵
 - Requiring voter identification is a mainstream idea, with 80% of Americans supporting the idea, including 62% of Democrats and 87% of independents.⁶
 - Liberals often claim such laws discriminate against racial minorities, especially Black Americans.⁷
 - The allegation that voter ID laws dissuade or prevent Black voters was recently contradicted in Georgia, where strict voter laws were implemented in 2021. According to a survey conducted by the University of Georgia, 0% of Black respondents had a “poor” experience voting, with 96.2% stating their voting experience was “good” or “excellent,” which was even higher than White respondents.⁸ [For more information on Georgia’s reforms, see RPC’s Guide “*Election Integrity—Truth About Georgia*”⁹]
 - A study of both state and federal elections from 2003-2020 determined that voter ID laws do not particularly benefit either party. The first laws implemented advantaged Democrats, and since 2012, there has been virtually zero advantage for either party.¹⁰
- *Mail-In Voting*
 - Voting by mail provides inherent election security and integrity risks not found with in-person voting.¹¹ Unfortunately, allowances for increasingly early mail-in voting were expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic and have largely yet to be curtailed.

- In the 2020 election, 23 states accepted completed mail-in ballots that arrived after Election Day.¹² This delayed election results and increased the likelihood of fraud and widespread suspicion about the integrity of the election.
- In 2022, 27 states and Washington, DC, offered no-excuse absentee voting, meaning any voter can request a mail-in ballot without reason. In 8 additional states, voters automatically receive a mail-in ballot even if they do not request one.¹³
- While absentee ballots have existed for years, states gradually extended this privilege from military members to anyone out of town, to those who did not want to vote in person. Even still, absentee ballots differ from no-excuse mail-in ballots, as absentee ballots require an application process that ensures voter verification. Mail-in ballots without an authentication process expose an election to interference, such as lost ballots, ballot harvesting, or illegal voting.
- Eight states and Washington, D.C., have automatic mail-in ballots,¹⁴ often using inaccurate voter rolls. [For more information on voter rolls, see RPC's Guide "Voter Registration List Integrity"¹⁵] With large amounts of mail-in ballots, it is difficult and time-consuming for officials to count them, let alone discover illegal ones.¹⁶ Preventing voter fraud requires finding and prosecuting it before it occurs.¹⁷
- *Ranked Choice Voting*
 - A popular idea for electoral reform, primarily among liberals, is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).
 - Under RCV, voters 'rank' the candidates by their preference. If no candidate attains the majority of votes, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated, and those who selected that candidate as their number one choice have their votes reassigned to their second choice. This process continues until a candidate achieves 50% plus one vote.
 - Currently, Maine¹⁸ and Alaska¹⁹ are the only states that use RCV for federal elections, and Nevadans will vote on implementing this process in 2024.²⁰
 - RCV creates more problems than it solves.
 - While it may initially seem to remove plurality victors, it can award victories to candidates who only received a relatively small percent of the first-round vote. Deciding votes could be from ballots where the winning candidate was the third or fourth choice.
 - In the 2022 U.S. House of Representatives special election in Alaska, a state that just recently implemented RCV, roughly 60% of voters selected Republican candidates in the first round.²¹ However, due to RCV, a Democrat emerged as the victor after two weeks of counting. About 6% of the votes initially cast were prematurely removed from the final round because not all candidates were ranked on the ballot. The difference between the top 2 candidates was 5,240 votes, less than half of the 11,243 ballots that were prematurely exhausted (removed due to insufficient candidates ranked) during the RCV process.²²
 - While the confusing RCV process may cause many voters to incorrectly fill out a ballot, which silences their voice in the election, the long and complicated counting process also delays results and makes room for error.²³
- *Zuckerbucks*
 - Most states accept private funding for their election infrastructure. Billionaire Mark Zuckerberg led this effort in 2020, donating more than \$400 million to election offices in 47 states.²⁴ Most of these funds, colloquially known as "Zuckerbucks," were funneled through a left-wing non-profit group, the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), which has ties to the Obama administration and other progressive organizations.²⁵

- A Foundation for Government Accountability report confirmed that these grants gave CTCL operatives access to ballot information, reports of absentee ballot counts, and even keys to a mail-in ballot storage room.²⁶
- There is documented evidence that the money for this infrastructure went primarily into Democrat strongholds, funding activities such as ballot drop-box placement, ballot curing, ballot harvesting, voter registration drives, and get-out-the-vote efforts in swing states.^{27,28}
 - Pennsylvania received \$25 million in Zuckerbucks, with more than 90% of these funds going to counties that Joe Biden won.²⁹
 - In Michigan, roughly half of the \$15 million went to the city of Detroit, which voted 94% for Biden.^{30 31}
 - In Wisconsin, nearly 85% of the \$10 million spent went into the state's five most populous cities, which Joe Biden won by an average of 37 points.³²

POLICY SOLUTIONS

- Americans must be assured that elections are secure and credible, with each citizen getting one vote and one vote only, and that it is accurately counted. Federal election policy should ensure that:
 - Federal law is upheld, and only American citizens have a say when selecting our leaders.
 - Liberal elites and special interests do not have an oversized influence in elections and election infrastructure.
 - Elections results are not held up for weeks.
 - Transparency in the election process is vast and universal.
- To accomplish many of these ends, Congress should pass the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, which would do the following:³³
 - It confirms that states have the authority to remove non-citizens from their federal voter registration lists and that it is a felony for non-citizens to vote in federal elections. It also requires states to include in their biannual reports to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) the number of inactive registrants and the number of registrants removed from the list of official voters.
 - Allows a state to require proof of citizenship to register for mail-in voting.
 - Includes the End Zuckerbucks Act,³⁴ which removes the federal tax exemption for providing direct or indirect private funding for election administration.
 - Requires USPS to prioritize election mail and postmark the date of receipt, adding criminal penalties to any forgery.
- Congress should also pass H.R. 3704, the *One Vote One Choice Act*, which prohibits States from using RCV in Federal elections.³⁵ An alternative to RCV could be run-off elections, such as in Georgia.

Publ. June 23, 2023

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² Dustin Gardiner. New court order means noncitizen parents can vote. San Francisco Chronicle. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/New-court-order-means-noncitizen-parents-can-vote-17430973.php>

³ Lisa Rathke. Vermont Supreme Court rules in favor of noncitizen voting. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/vermont-state-government-phil-scott-8ef6bd772536c3fc076315a02a69d3a7>

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⁶ National: Public Supports Both Early Voting and Requiring Photo ID to Vote. Monmouth University. https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/MonmouthPoll_US_062121/

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- ¹⁵ Voter Registration List Integrity. House Republican Policy Committee. <https://republicanpolicy.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicanpolicy.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/State%20Voter%20Roll%20Maintenance.pdf>
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